

South Africa - Political Extremism Of The Far Right, And The Future

With the notable exception of the "workers' paradise" the former Soviet Union, and similar régimes, there is probably no country on Earth that has been so persistently misrepresented as South Africa. The misrepresentation of South Africa by its ideological enemies has at times reached hysterical proportions, so much so that its citizens, including many non-whites, who have visited the West, have wondered if people who denounced South Africa and the Apartheid system were talking about the same country. With the fall of Apartheid and the election of former terrorist Nelson Mandela as President, concern for the at times bestial practices of the state under Apartheid have been replaced by fear of another Zimbabwe or even another Congo followed by a white exodus of gargantuan proportions. To date nothing like that has happened, nor does it look like happening. Indeed, the very same people who a couple of years ago were clambering for one man one vote are beginning to claim that Nelson Mandela is nothing more than an Uncle Tom, or even that he has sold out to the Apartheid system, the structure of which remains firmly in place. The true facts though are very different, and the reason this is difficult to grasp is because of the success of the black propaganda campaign waged against South African - primarily by leftists - over the past thirty and more years.

The South African Attitude To Race

In 1978 a group calling itself the South African National Front reared its ugly head in the Johannesburg area. Its two leading lights were both British expats: Jack Noble (now deceased) and a certain Ray Hill. Noble had once held "liberal views" but after visiting the United States he changed his mind. Hill was an out and out Nazi who had fled to South Africa while on bail for a vicious attack on a Jewish café owner. On his return to Britain in 1979 he surrendered himself to the authorities and received a suspended sentence for the assault. ¹

No sooner had the South African National Front been formed than it launched a campaign against non-whites who were living in white only areas, and against the Zionist landlords responsible for this. (Zionist is a well-known code word for "Jew" and reflected Hill's anti-Semitism). The reaction was not what one would imagine from reading British press reports about South Africa. Although it was then illegal for non-whites to live in white only areas, in practice the authorities turned a blind eye to it, but of course, when such "illegal occupation" was brought to their attention they had no alternative but to act, and many people were thrown out of their homes. ²

Not content with this, the SANF began propagating a policy of "controlling the Black birthrate" that would, if enacted, have resulted in a large rise in the mortality rate of black infants. When questioned on this, Chairman Hill replied, "tough - but that's natural selection." ³

SANF Chairman Hill was quoted thus on the then recent evictions: "It's probably true - it's against the law for them to live there and so we reported it to the authorities. We're good citizens." ⁴

Denis Diamond, a spokesman for the South African Board of Deputies, was quoted thus: "The National Front's solution for controlling the Black birthrate almost amounts to the final solution - approaching genocide." ⁵ The SANF's hatemongering was eventually taken up by MPs ⁶ and was even raised in Parliament. ⁷

The SANF And The HNP

By March 1979, the SANF had managed to play up to the Herstigte Nasionale Party, a xenophobic, largely Afrikaaner body. Ray Hill claimed in his autobiography that he became the first person ever to address an HNP meeting in English. ⁸ That claim may be true, but Hill's book has since been exposed as a tissue of lies by a meticulously researched and minutely referenced exposé published in 1994. ⁹ Hill did though make one speech to an HNP audience: at a rally in March 1979 he seized the microphone uninvited and launched into a vicious anti-Semitic tirade. This led to the resignation of a senior HNP member. ¹⁰

After his return to England, with the police in hot pursuit, ¹¹ Hill joined one far right group after another and was forever making anti-Jewish and anti-black speeches, but in March 1984 it was revealed that he had been working as a "mole" (in reality agent provocateur) for a pseudo-anti-fascist organisation. ¹² Subsequent researches have revealed that Hill was in the pockets of the same kind of people during his period of mischief-making in South Africa. ¹³

Jack Noble also returned to England, where he died a short while later; the South African National Front, as much as it was any sort of political party, subsequently disappearing up its own exhaust pipe. It had always been distrusted, ironically, on account of its foreign origins. Which brings us to the HNP. The brief association of Ray Hill with the HNP was obviously an attempt to smear the party as anti-Semitic. HNP leader Jaap Marais dismissed this charge as the nonsense it is: "The HNP is a true nationalist party, like the party of which Dr Verwoerd and his predecessors were leaders. Dr Verwoerd especially, was also accused of anti-semitism because of his nationalist convictions. It is standard leftist practice in South Africa to associate nationalism with fascism and from there with anti-semitism, and

to present this as the argument against which there is no argument." ¹⁴

That being said, what of the HNP? The HNP (Reconstructed National Party) was founded 1969; Jacob Albertus (Jaap) Marais, has been its leader since 1977; he is a former MP, but his party looks to be going nowhere. It has little support and is one of literally thousands of minor political parties and similar organisations which can be found the world over at both ends and the centre of the political spectrum. A party which has attracted much more publicity because of its militancy and its (alleged) neo-Nazi ideology, is the Afrikaaner Resistance Movement, which is usually known by its Afrikaaner acronym AWB.

The AWB

The facts about the AWB are very different from the image; while it is true that its insignia bear a strong resemblance to that of the Nazis - particularly the swastika - this could be either coincidence or more likely a deliberate act of provocation. The truth is that Nazis and anti-Semitic cranks have never been popular in South Africa, and have always been given short shrift by white South Africans of all backgrounds, as have racial bigots of all hues, because the South Africans do not consider themselves racist, whatever the world at large may think about them. (Recall what we have already said about the SANF). In 1978, when John Tyndall, then leader of the British National Front, wanted to visit South Africa, he was refused a visa. ¹⁵

South Africa has strong race relations legislation: anti-Semitic and Holocaust Revisionist literature has long been banned in the country, while in 1978 a biography of PLO leader Yasir Arafat was banned because it was said to have been offensive to Moslems. ¹⁶ It should be remembered that this was at a time when Arafat was still being presented largely as a terrorist to the Western media.

Proof that this is not mere window dressing can be found from a reading of the South African press, for, certainly from the 1970s onwards, a large section of this is devoted to advertising aimed at a broad cross section of the community: black athletes figure prominently in the sports pages, and South Africans of all races feature in all sections.

Returning to the AWB, this organisation makes a lot of noise - empty vessels always do - but its utter incompetence was exposed for all the world to see when in 1994 three of its members were shot dead by the security forces in Bophutatswana. The AWB's founder and leader since 1973 is Eugene Terre Blanche a former

police officer. The AWB believes in a white homeland, and has little or no urban support. Terre Blanche once stood as an HNP candidate.

Wit Kommando And Broederbond

A much more radical organisation was the short lived Wit Kommando, an outright terrorist group which was active briefly in the late seventies. Its leaders subsequently received heavy gaol sentences.

Mention should also be made of the Broederbond. The Broederbond (League of Brothers) started life as an exclusively male Afrikaner organisation. Founded in 1918, its members at one time virtually ran South Africa. But like the Freemasons, the power of this organisation has been greatly exaggerated, and also like the Freemasons, its power and influence has waned considerably over the past few decades along with the public schools and other elitist institutions as suffrage, higher education and equality of opportunity have been extended to an increasing number of citizens from all backgrounds worldwide.

Far Right Extremists - Overseas Contacts

In 1980, a magazine called South African Patriot was founded; ironically, as with the South African National Front, the "patriots" behind this publication were largely British expats. Shortly after its founding, one of its editors - allegedly - ran off with the funds. The editorship subsequently passed to Alan D. Harvey, who now runs the magazine from Britain. South African Patriot In Exile is published infrequently and as funds permit.

Contacts between the far right groups of Britain and North America and South Africa go back decades. The British National Party, the only far right organisation in Britain with a meaningful membership/presence, has long reprinted articles from South African journals, the South African Observer, for instance. Much is made of this by the conspiratorially minded Searchlight Organisation, whose machinery of disinformation has long effected an octopus-like grip over the British media on such issues, but the plain fact is that such international "links" are no more sinister between far right groups than in any other field of activity, political or otherwise.

The only major influential right wing extremist organisation in the United States (in any meaningful sense) is the Liberty Lobby. Founded by Willis Carto - who was thrown out of the ultra-Conservative - John Birch Society for his anti-Semitism - the major role of Liberty Lobby is of reporting news, usually with a

peculiar "anti-Zionist" slant. The Liberty Lobby publishes a mass circulation weekly newspaper called the Spotlight. However, meaningful links between the Liberty Lobby and far right groups in South Africa are few and far between, again, the major role of far right organisations is to attempt to influence public opinion through small circulation journals, something the not-so-small circulation Spotlight does to a great extent here and there, even if only by its keeping the politicians in line, but its influence - if any - in South Africa - is minimal.

Mandela, His Successors And The Future

Which brings us back to Mandela. Nelson Mandela is a remarkable turn up for white South Africa, because this former terrorist and communist has not only mellowed with age but has realised just what nonsense the various communist parties throughout the world have espoused, and continue to espouse. It may be also that he has seen what has happened throughout Black Africa where uhuru has brought not free markets and prosperity but socialist central planning, poverty, chaos, famine and civil war. Certainly Mandela's recent claim that some black South Africans had mistaken liberty for licence shows that he has a totally un-communist attitude towards private property. He probably realises also that an exodus of whites from the country would plunge South Africa not so much into civil war as a new Dark Ages.

Whatever the reason for Mandela's apparent change of heart and ideology, as long as he remains in charge the prospects for all South Africans look better than at any time in the country's recent past. The reality though is that Mandela will not be in charge for much longer. He is an old man, and even if he survives physically he is in far from the best of health and must be expected to step down in the not-too-distant future. If his totally worthless estranged wife were to succeed him the country would most certainly go down the tubes. That does not seem likely however; to begin with, Mrs Mandela has fallen from grace, not only in the eyes of Mr Mandela but of her own people; and what is left of the white establishment in South Africa will certainly fight tooth and claw to keep her out of office, as will the moderate blacks who are most likely to succeed Mandela.

The Future Of Race Relations In South Africa

Nothing refutes the myth of South Africa as a Hell on Earth for the black man quite so much as the fact that the South Africans have long had an immigration problem. Blacks from neighbouring states have flooded into South Africa, not vice versa!

On October 11, 1994, BBC2's Newsnight programme reported that

South Africans of all races were complaining that illegal immigrants were taking jobs from local people, and were responsible for rising crime and dealing in drugs. The SA Times, which is published in London, reported in its October 19 issue that the government was considering electrifying the fence between South Africa and neighbouring Mozambique, the poorest country in the world.

In Britain, this attitude is called racism, in South Africa, realism would be a better word. Provided the South African government continues to adopt policies based on economic realism rather than some suicidal collectivist altruism, the country will prosper, and so will South Africans of all races. Nothing will be more conducive to the continuance and development of such policies by Mr Mandela and his successors than a willingness by foreign multinationals to invest in what is still one of the richest countries on Earth.

Notes And References

(1) Right-wing man sentenced, published in the Jewish Chronicle, July 13, 1979, page 10.

(2) Beware the snooping NF: RACISTS' COMPLAINTS FORCED RESIDENTS TO LEAVE, by Jean Le May, published in the Johannesburg Sunday Express, March 4, 1979, pages 6-7.

(3) The SANF's policy was to "refuse to provide one cent for Black 'welfare', for Black health or for Black education..." Hill, questioned on this by the Sunday Express, allegedly replied, "I suppose there would be a big rise in the Black infant mortality rate. That's tough - but that's natural selection."

(4) Ibid.

(5) Ibid.

(6) MPs want action over racist Front, by Craig Tyson, published in the Johannesburg Sunday Express, January 28, 1979, page 6.

(7) The following is extracted from the South African Hansard, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND REPLIES THIRD SESSION - SIXTH PARLIAMENT 2 February to 22 June 1979, Vol. 83, Wednesday, 14 February 1979, page 50: "Mr. N.B. WOOD asked the Minister of Police:

(1) How many complaints has his Department received concerning the activities of the National Front Organization;

(2) what action is envisaged to stop the Front from distributing antisemitic literature.

The MINISTER OF POLICE:

- (1) Eight.
- (2) All the action that can legally be taken.
- (8) THE OTHER FACE OF TERROR: Inside Europe's Neo-Nazi Network, by Ray Hill with Andrew Bell, published by Grafton Books, London, (1988), page 50.
- (9) LIARS OUGHT TO HAVE GOOD MEMORIES: The True, Unsanitised Story Of "Searchlight" Mole Ray Hill with a critique of The Other Face of Terror, by Alexander Baron, published by InfoText Manuscripts, London, (August 1994).
- (10) Johannesburg Sunday Express, March 11, 1979, page 10.
- (11) Hill was involved in both a credit card fraud and a financial rip off.
- (12) We Expose Nazi Terror, by Andrew Drummond, published in the News of the World, March 25, 1984, pages 4-5.
- (13) Baron, Liars Ought To Have Good Memories, (op cit).
- (14) Baron, Liars Ought To Have Good Memories, page 35, (ibid). This is in fact standard leftist practice everywhere.
- (15) UK 'Front' boss seeks SA visa, by Ray Joseph, published in the Johannesburg Sunday Times, November 25, 1978, page 15.
- (16) Johannesburg Sunday Times, September 10, 1978, page 5. (Not in all editions).